with sincerity of purpose as they could form a basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Pakistan's response is awaited.

Number of Diplomatic Passports

3864. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Diplomatic Passports validly existing as on 1st August, 1994; and

(b) what is the number out of these which are held by non-officials like Members of Parliament etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) the total number of diploimatic passports issued at Headequarters from 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994 was 10,628. It is not possible to state how many of these remain valid since diplomatic passports are issued for periods ranging from one year to three years depending on the nature and duration of a diplomatic assignment and may be renewed for further period, if so required.

(b) For the 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994, 1,320 diplomatic passports were issued at Headquarters to nonofficials including Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament, Ministers and Haj Committee Members.

US Assisant Secretary of State's Statement on Indo-Pak Nuclear War

3865. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to some statements of US Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs made in June, 1994 mentioning that Indo-Pak Nucelear War is feared;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to call for more clarifications in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes Sir. The reference was incidental to the main theme of the remarks newsmen by the US Assistant Secretary for Political and Military Affairs which dealt with the DPRK nuclear issue.

(b) Government do not share the view that there is any imminent prospect of conventional or nuclear war between India and Pakistan. India, in any case, does not possess nuclear weapons.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Such statements have also been made earlier by US Government representatives. The position of the Government is well-known to the Government of the United States.

Compensation to Indian Soldiers died in UN peace keeping operation

3866. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France and Belgium told the United Nations that the amount of compensation paid to Indian soldiers who died on peace keeping duties should be less than that paid to families of soldiers from Western countries on the plea that the manpower in developing countries is cheaper;

(b) if so, whether Government of India objected to such demand of France and Belgium; and

(c) what was the response of the United Nations with relevance to the demand of France and Belgium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

However, there is an anomaly in the present system followed by the UN for payment of death compensation, according to which the compensation is only at the level at which individual countries made payments to the families of the deceased. Therefore, the families would be compensated differently depending on the nationality of the deceased soldier.

The Govt. of India is in favour of payment of equal amount of death compensation, irrespective of the nationality of the soldier. India is pursuing this question in discussions in the UN.

Agreement with Foreign Countries to Combat Terrorism and Drug Trafficking

3867. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a number of agreements to combat terrorism and check illicit trafficking of narcotics with a number of countries;

(b) if so, the names of such countries; and

(c) to what extent Government have achieved success in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has signed agreements to combat terrorism and/or to check illicit traffic in narcotics with the following countries: Mauritius, Zambia, U.K., U.A.E., Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Myanmar;

In Addition, (i) Indian and US actively cooperate to combat illegal narcotics trafficking through the mechanism of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Narcotics. During Prime Minister's visit to US in May, 1994, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperative Measures to Increase Awareness and Support for Efforts to Combat Production and Distribution of Use of Illegal Drugs.

(ii) India and *Spain* have issued a Joint Declaration on combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime in February, 1993.

(iii) An India-*Pakistan* Committee to combat drug trafficking and smuggling was set up in December, 1986. This Committee has been meeting from time to time to review the drug trafficking and smuggling situation in the two countries and explore ways to improve the modes of exchange of information.

(iv) With *Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan,* India has signed a Declaration on Principles of Cooperation, which contains an article providing for cooperation, inter alia in the fields of terrorism, illegal international trade in narcotics, etc.

(c) Not many incidents have occurred, Prompting intervention under the provisions of above agreements, etc. However, Indian drug enforcement agencies maintain direct linkages with other countries to check illicit narcotics trafficking. Considerable success has been achieved by means of joint efforts.

Indo-Russian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation

3868. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Russian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, 1993 has been ratified;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the Treaty; and

(c) whether the Text would be placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which was signed on 28 January, 1993 has come into force with effect from 11 October 1993, following an exchange of notes by the Governments of India and Russia.

(b) The main features of the Treaty are:—

(i) The two countries recognise that the Treaty is a continuation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed between India and the USSR, on 9 August, 1971.

(ii) India and Russia have reiterated their adherence to the Delhi Declaration of a Nuclear Weapons Free and NonViolent World.

(iii) Russia respects India's policy of non-alignment. India respects the policy of the Russian Federation aimed at the democratisation and de-ideologisation of